



June 22, 2011

The Honorable Tom Carper
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Coburn
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Carper and Coburn:

Taxpayers for Common Sense strongly supports the Medicare and Medicaid “FAST” Act of 2011. This bill to fight fraud and abuse to save taxpayer dollars makes sense from a fiscal perspective and program performance perspective.

Many of the provisions you propose are simply common sense efforts to tackle fraud, such as requiring identifiers for prescribers and removing the existing identifiers from the public domain or improving data sharing across agencies or programs. In other cases, there are incentive programs to reduce error or catch fraud, such as electronic payment systems, or strengthen reviews of high risk payments.

The provisions of this legislation represent recommendations that have come from a wide range of sources including the Health and Human Services Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office (GAO). These reforms will strengthen public confidence in these programs as well as save precious taxpayer dollars from waste, fraud and abuse.

Again, we appreciate the hard work you and your staff did to draft the Medicare and Medicaid “FAST” Act of 2011. We applaud the effort and look forward to working with you to enact this legislation. If you would like to discuss this further please contact me or Steve Ellis at 202-546-8500.

Sincerely,

Ryan Alexander
President